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## Column One By David Courtney

THE Persian story becomes again disappointing and confusing. It is difficult in this issue, to know which is the goose that lays the golden egg — Persia, out of whose sovereign earth the oil flows; or the A.I.O.C., whose organization is equipped to sell the output in a competitive market — and which merely the goose.

The Stokes Plan, whilst ensuring the laying of the egg, would divide it into equal parts with one-half for A.I.O.C. and the other half for Persia; and would, presumably, accept the theory of not the whole practice of nationalization. To that extent it is a very much better plan than the one that was implicit in the so-called Jackson proposals; and, until a day or two ago, there has been good reason to suppose that the Persians, schooled by Mr. Harriman, would be content.

If a settlement is not as easy as that, the fault is largely, but not wholly, Mr. Mossadeq's. The Persian Premier, in between fainting fits and retirement to his bed, has played up to a political fanaticism which he can no longer suppress or evade. It is evident, for example, that Dr. Mossadeq agreed to the Stokes negotiations on the basis of the March 20 oil nationalization law, without any mention of the enabling act of April 30, by which the Persian Parliament legislated the A.I.O.C. out of existence as a company with any rights or trading facilities in Persia. Obviously, he could not have done less; but the effect has been to create a situation in which acceptance of the Stokes Plan would appear to mean a repudiation of the enabling act and recognition of the A.I.O.C. as at any rate a partner in the nationalized industry.

On the face of it, that is a fair enough arrangement; but not enough to satisfy the extremists, like Dr. Makki and M. Mada, who have been encouraged in their extremism by the Persian Government; and far less than what the Fedayan Islam movement, of which port Dr. Mossadeq is mortally afraid, can be expected to take.

THE Persian question may prove to be decisive in the affairs of the whole Middle East. Britain and the United States cannot afford a breakdown in negotiations with Teheran. The problem is not exclusively one of oil supplies. Almost more important is the need to re-establish a co-operative Western influence in the region and to call a halt to a trend, particularly marked in Persia, Iraq and Egypt, not unlike that which preceded the anti-Western revolts in China, Indonesia, Malaya and Indo-China. American representations in Cairo and the continued presence of Mr. Harriman in Teheran indicate that the U.S. is now belatedly aware of the dangers and is determined to check them. In that fact there is still hope for a happier turn of events in Persia.

## Nam II Demands Reply on Neutral Zone Violation

TOKYO, Monday (Reuters). — General Nam II, chief North Korean cease-fire delegate, today demanded an immediate satisfactory reply on the shooting of two Chinese military policemen inside the Kaesong neutral zone.

Following an investigation by Allied and Communist liaison officers, United Nations H.Q. stated that Communist soldiers interrogated by an Allied officer could not identify the attackers as U.N. troops. They described them as wearing white shirts and black trousers and no steel helmets, issued to all U.N. troops.

After today's brief session of the buffer zone sub-committee, General Nam attended a military funeral at Kaesong for the Chinese platoon leader killed in the incident. The other Chinese military policeman was wounded.

General Nam's message called on Admiral Joy, chief U.N. delegate, to "punish the culprits severely." He called the incident the culmination of "your consistently unlawful violation of the neutral zone agreement" and asked for an assurance against any recurrence.

The U.N. statement said the shooting was possibly the work of a politically-guided civilian group operating under instructions to create an atmosphere of tension which would tend to support the breaking up of the current military negotiations.

General Nuchols, the U.N. spokesman, said there were indications that there were groups in North Korea, mainly political in nature, "who feel that the war against South Korea should be continued and perhaps are reluctant to have an armistice which might establish a line other than the 38th Parallel." These "may have been responsible for the shooting," he said.

## New Break-Off In Iran Talks

TEHRAN, Monday (Reuters). — The British and Persian oil delegations will not meet again until "the present difficulties are settled at a high level," an official British spokesman announced here tonight. This confirmed the earlier report that President Truman's special envoy, Mr. Averell Harriman, had failed in arranging any further meeting of the parties in the near future.

According to some sources, he himself has threatened to return home if the deadlock is not broken soon.

Earlier, however, Premier Mossadeq declared after a three-and-a-half-hour meeting with Mr. Stokes and Mr. Harriman that he was "still hopeful we will be able to find a settlement. Things look better today than yesterday," he declared.

The hurried conference of the three men was called in a frank attempt to avert the threatened collapse of the talks.

Dr. Mossadeq denied emphatically that Mr. Harriman had declared his support of the British proposals.

Harriman backs British. But at yesterday's formal session Mr. Harriman told the Persian bluntly that he considered the British offer to be a good one, a source present at the meeting said.

Mr. Harriman was said to have told the Persians that he did not consider the Stokes proposals to be a step forward and under which the British oil delegation had come to Persia.

The Persians had stated earlier that they wished to publish their reply to the British proposals. Mr. Harriman told them that if they did so he would simultaneously issue a statement in which he would state publicly that he supported the Stokes proposals and that they did not contravene his four-point formula.

Under this pressure the Persians agreed to "reconsider" their reply. But in both American and British circles there was deep pessimism over the progress of the negotiations.

## P.C.C. May Try New Procedure At Paris Talks

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent  
HAKIRYA, Monday. — I understand that the Government at a meeting this week will consider its reply to the P.C.C.'s invitation to send representatives to Paris on September 10.

It has been noted here that the invitation relates to "discussions with the Commission," and it has not yet been made clear whether something in the nature of a second Lausanne is envisaged, with each party discussing matters with the Commission, but never meeting one another, or whether there is any intention to hold discussions on the more realistic basis of direct contact between Israel and Arab representatives.

It has been remarked here that there has never been a direct meeting between official Israel and Arab representatives that has not ended in an agreement, whilst no indirect discussion on outstanding problems, through a third party, has ever yet led to agreement. There is therefore little inclination here once again to go through the frustrating experience of Lausanne.

Own Proposals. It is understood, however, that the Commission has in mind a procedure which is different in at least one respect from that followed at Lausanne. It plans to make proposals of its own for the settlement of outstanding issues.

What these proposals are likely to be is a matter for speculation. It can be said now that the Israeli Government has already made it clear that it cannot consider anything in the way of the repatriation of Arab refugees or of territorial concessions. Doubtless, within the framework of an overall peace settlement, it will be prepared to consider methods of compensation.

## Coalition Talks With 3 Parties

The Political Committee of Mafpan has decided to enter a "progressive coalition" centering on the workers' parties.

This is the gist of the communication by the Mafpan representatives to Mr. Ben Gurion at a three-hour conference which broke up at midnight last night and which is to be resumed on Wednesday.

The Mafpan spokesmen also wished the basis for discussion to include other problems than Israel's international relations, such as defence and economics.

## Edelsten To Visit Suez

SUEZ CANAL, Monday (Reuters). — Admiral Sir John Edelsten, Commander-in-Chief British Mediterranean Fleet, will arrive here on Saturday on a three day visit to the Canal zone. He will have talks with General Sir Brian Robertson, Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces. It is understood they will discuss Middle East military questions and the situation that would result if Egypt abrogated the Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936.

## Members of Second Knesset Take Office

Mr. Sprinzak addressing the final session of the First Knesset in Jerusalem yesterday morning. Photo by Braun

The curtain rose in Jerusalem yesterday on the Second Knesset, chosen in the National Elections on July 30. Dr. Haim Beger, the oldest member of the House, administered the pledge of loyalty to the new legislature, which includes 74 members of the First Knesset and 44 "freshmen."

## Final Session Of 1st Knesset

The First Knesset held its final meeting yesterday morning, five hours before the new legislature was convened.

Pointing out that the First Knesset had served only two years and seven months of its four-year tenure, Mr. Yosef Sprinzak, the speaker, said, "We managed to organize the beginnings of a procedure for the Knesset, to discuss routine activities of the Government and its internal and foreign policy, to introduce our own amendments in foreign laws and to begin our own legislation."

## Weizmann Message

The following is the text of President Weizmann's message to the Second Knesset: I sincerely regret that the state of affairs in the world prevents me from attending the Opening of the Second Knesset. This House assumes its responsibilities in grave and anxiety-laden days. The world is not yet stabilized, but there is hope that the vigorous struggle for the restoration of peace in the Far East, to which we have made our modest contribution, will not fail.

Our persistent efforts to achieve peace and cooperation with our neighbors have not yet been answered. But let us not despair. We deeply believe that the day will come when, through acceptance of fact and basic understanding, our neighbors will reconcile themselves to our existence as a nation and a state of Israel.

## Congress Delegates Busy As Committee Sessions Begin

By Our Political Correspondent  
The Zionist Congress lull, which falls between the end of the General Debate and the closing sessions is more apparent than real. For one thing, the delegates are busier than when the Congress is in full session, for every delegate is on one of the 13 committees and some are more than one. The committees will be working under pressure, particularly in view of the announcement by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, President of the Congress, that the assembly is to be wound up a week from tomorrow at the latest.

Of all the commissions, the most august is the Standing Committee. This body, still known by the German term "Permanenzsausschuss," has a long and honored tradition. It is regarded as the plumb of all commissions, and the delegate chosen to move on it is of front-bench rank. Its main function is to hammer out the Executive slate. As such, the Committee is more familiarly known as the "kitchen," and the duration of the Congress hangs on the time needed for its deliberations. Deadlocked, as it nearly always is, it also deadlocks the Congress.

## Sprinzak Re-elected Speaker of House

By Moshe Brilliant  
POST Parliamentary Correspondent

The curtain rose in Jerusalem yesterday on the Second Knesset, chosen in the National Elections on July 30. Dr. Haim Beger, the oldest member of the House, administered the pledge of loyalty to the new legislature, which includes 74 members of the First Knesset and 44 "freshmen."

The only other action taken at the inaugural session was the re-election of Mr. Yosef Sprinzak as Speaker by 100 votes without opposition and the election of two new Deputy Speakers, Mr. Yosef Berlin (General Zionists) and Mrs. Hanna Landan (Mafpan).

A total of 113 members took the pledge yesterday, while seven were absent. None of the 130 successful candidates had submitted his resignation, but it is expected that some members will resign after the Zionist Congress if they are elected to the Zionist Executive.

When the new members took their places in the familiar horseshoe-shaped hall, only the Mafpan deputies occupied the same section as in the First Knesset. The seating of factions is from left to right on the basis of size. Hence, Mafpan, who remained the largest faction, continued to fill the seats of the entire left side of the hall. Mr. Yosef Sprinzak sat in the front row, but the Mafpan representatives in the Cabinet retained their places around the Government table in the wall.

Shift in Seating. The General Zionists, who are now the second largest party, filled the seats at the centre of the U which had been occupied by Mafpan in the outgoing parliament. Mafpan moved over to the Religious Zionists, and their neighbors on their right were the skullduggery representatives of Mapai, Hahamizrah, and the smaller factions were clustered in the right-hand corner of the auditorium. On chairs around the back of the hall sat members of the First Knesset who were not returned. The former Deputy Speaker, Dr. Nahum Nir, sat next to Mrs. Rachel Kagan, of Wizo, behind the Herut benches.

The meeting was called to order with three raps of the gavel by the Speaker, Mr. Yosef Sprinzak. He then read the names of the members of the Zionist Executive, and a new General Zionist deputy, to take the chair.

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